

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for supplying drinking water comprising:
  - a water supply pipe capable of conducting raw water such as tap water and bottled natural water;
  - a first branch pipe and a second branch pipe which are divided from the water supply pipe into two and can conduct the raw water in the water supply pipe;
  - a cold water generating tank capable of cooling the raw water conducted from the first branch pipe;
  - a water softening means capable of removing hardness components from the raw water conducted from the second branch pipe; and
  - a hot water generating tank capable of heating soft water generated by the water softening means.
2. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein the first branch pipe is provided with a mineral water generating unit in which mineral components are added to the raw water.
3. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein the water softening means has an activated carbon filter device containing activated carbon and an ion exchange device provided with a cation-exchange resin.
4. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 2, wherein the water softening means has an activated carbon filter device containing activated carbon and an ion exchange device provided with a cation-exchange resin.
5. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim

1, wherein the water softening means has an activated carbon filter device containing activated carbon and a reverse osmosis membrane filter device for keeping mineral components from passing through.

6. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 2, wherein the water softening means has an activated carbon filter device containing activated carbon and a reverse osmosis membrane filter device for keeping mineral components from passing through.

7. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein the water softening means has a steam generator for generating steam by heating the raw water and a steam cooler for condensing steam generated in the steam generator.

8. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 2, wherein the water softening means has a steam generator for generating steam by heating the raw water and a steam cooler for condensing steam generated in the steam generator.

9. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein the water softening means has:

a mineral depositing device having an electrolytic bath for storing the raw water conducted from the second branch pipe, a mineral eluting material arranged in the electrolytic bath, and a pair of positive and negative electrodes for applying a DC voltage to the raw water in the electrolytic bath; and

a mineral removing tank for trapping mineral deposits formed in the mineral depositing device.

10. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 2, wherein the water softening means has:

a mineral depositing device having an electrolytic bath for storing the raw water conducted from the second branch pipe, a mineral eluting material arranged in the electrolytic bath, and a pair of positive and negative electrodes for applying a DC voltage to the raw water in the electrolytic bath; and

a mineral removing tank for trapping mineral deposits formed in the mineral depositing device.

11. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has a cleaning/sterilizing device for cleaning and sterilizing a water receptacle such as a nursing bottle by using hot water generated in the hot water generating tank.

12. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 2, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has a cleaning/sterilizing device for cleaning and sterilizing a water receptacle such as a nursing bottle by using hot water generated in the hot water generating tank.

13. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has:

a cleaning/sterilizing branch pipe branching from the first branch pipe;

a chlorine generator for containing chlorine in the water conducted to the cleaning/sterilizing branch pipe; and

a cleaning/sterilizing device for cleaning and sterilizing a water

receptacle such as a nursing bottle by using chlorine-containing water generated in the chlorine generator.

14. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 2, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has:

a cleaning/sterilizing branch pipe branching from the first branch pipe;

a chlorine generator for containing chlorine in the water conducted to the cleaning/sterilizing branch pipe; and

a cleaning/sterilizing device for cleaning and sterilizing a water receptacle such as a nursing bottle by using chlorine-containing water generated in the chlorine generator.

15. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has a cleaning/sterilizing device for cleaning and sterilizing a water receptacle such as a nursing bottle by using a cleaning/sterilizing solution containing at least an alcohol solution.

16. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 2, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has a cleaning/sterilizing device for cleaning and sterilizing a water receptacle such as a nursing bottle by using a cleaning/sterilizing solution containing at least an alcohol solution.

17. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has an ultraviolet sterilizer for sterilizing a water receptacle such as a nursing bottle by ultraviolet.

18. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 2, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has an ultraviolet sterilizer for sterilizing a water receptacle such as a nursing bottle by ultraviolet.

19. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 11, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has a cleaning/sterilizing chamber for the water receptacle, a door for opening and closing the cleaning/sterilizing chamber, and a locking device for locking the door in a closed state when the cleaning/sterilizing device is operated.

20. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 12, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has a cleaning/sterilizing chamber for the water receptacle, a door for opening and closing the cleaning/sterilizing chamber, and a locking device for locking the door in a closed state when the cleaning/sterilizing device is operated.

21. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 11, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has an automatic cooler capable of cooling a hot beverage in the water receptacle to a desired temperature.

22. The apparatus for supplying drinking water according to claim 12, wherein the apparatus for supplying drinking water has an automatic cooler capable of cooling a hot beverage in the water receptacle to a desired temperature.